

Rationale

1H (1S) 2H (2S)
?

This is a fairly common sequence at the bridge table, isn't it? All too frequently, it's back to your bid before you know it. Aggressively raising partner's overcall is now a standard part of everyone's armoury. See lesson 5 on the Cue Raise. The first problem that you have is one of tempo. It's important to try to make your bids at the same speed whenever possible. This time it won't be easy. Certainly, you are entitled to think. However, if you do, your partner may be poorly placed to make his bid. Partner's actions may be scrutinized closely - particularly if you think long and hard and then come up with a pass. Your best hope of avoiding such a problem is to *PLAN*. Before you make that 1H bid, think of the rebids which you might want to make. Will I jump? Will I give a choice of contract?

- Here are some hands to decide your rebid after the above auction.

♠ 652 Your rebid is "**Pass**". This says
♥AKT97 "*Partner, I have no more or less than*
♦K87 *what you could reasonably expect.*"
♣K64

♠ 652 Rebid **3H!**. This shows an extra
♥AKT972 trump, NOT extra values. It is *not*
♦J8 an invitation for partner to bid game
♣K6 with a maximum.

♠ 652 **Double**. This is not penalties but is
♥AKT972 a game invite based mainly on high
♦K8 cards. Partner is expected to bid 3H
♣AK or 4H but a penalty pass is OK with
trumps, the right cards and vul. Unlikely here.

♠ 65 **Rebid 3D!** This is a game invite
♥AKT972 based on shape. It may not be
♦K876 natural. Partner rebids 3H or 4H
♣A

♠ 6542 **Rebid 4H**. Partner is short of spades
♥AKT972 Will they lead a trump? What will I do
♦AK8 if they bid 4S? Think I'll defend....
♣--

♠AQ9 **Rebid 3NT**. The bid I was always
♥AKT97 going to make. 9 tricks may be
♦K87 easier than 10. Partner can pass
♣K6 or correct to 4H.

♠A94 **Rebid 2NT**. This is a mild game
♥AKT97 invite, showing about this hand.
♦K87 Partner can pass, bid 3H, 3NT
♣K6 or 4H.

Look how much tougher this is:-

1H (1S) 2H (3S!)
?

3S is a pre-emptive raise. This time, you have only "pass", "double", "3NT" or "4H" as your options. Most pairs still play double as the game invite. Responder will bid 4H with a good 2H response or a defenceless hand with an extra trump. Otherwise, he will pass and hope!

- **Sometimes, you will want to invite game when the opposition have opened the bidding.** The Cue Raise lesson covers a lot of this. However there are other hands.

(1H) X (2H⁰) 2S¹
(3H) X² (P) 3S³

⁰Some pairs play this as very weak. See Truscott.

¹This is considered a Free Bid. i.e. There was no obligation to bid. Typically, it would show about 5 – 9 HCP and 5 spades. X, called a "Responsive Double", would have continued the takeout and have only 4 spades. Discuss this with partner.

²This is the game invite. 3S would just be competitive. Remember, partner already knows you have spades from your first disciplined double. You need a reason to do something other than pass.

³3S is enough partner.

(1D) X (2D) 4D
(P) ?

Again with their rubbish 2D raise.

Although cue bid of their suit is frequently a stopper ask, that is not the case here! 3D instead of 4D would leave that rare option open. The doubler can't be expected to have a stopper since he should be short in diamonds. Expect the 4D bidder to hold BOTH majors and unsure which one to bid. After all, the doubler might be 5-4, 4-4 or 4-3 in the majors. Yes, X instead of 3 or 4D would have been takeout. However, the 4D bidder doesn't want to get tangled if opener bids more diamonds.

- **Responding NT to partner's overcall**

(1H) 1S (P) 1NT 9 – 11 HCP
2NT 12 – 15HCP
3NT 16+ HCP

Since the 1S may be quite weak, the cheapest NT must show more than the values required to respond 1NT to an opening bid. Of course, you should not have more than a doubleton spade (Kx is great!) and the hearts will need to be well stopped.

- **Change of Suit by Advancer**

Advancer is the name given to the overcaller's partner. e.g. (1H) 1S (P) 2C

What does 2C mean? It means whatever you and partner decide that it means. Without discussion, it would be played as *forcing*, saying

"I have the value for a 2C overcall and little support for spades. What can you do?"

- The 1S bidder will rebid his suit or bid 2D (2nd suit) or 2NT or 3C with less than an opening hand. Do not pass unless partner knows that it is an option.

- With an opening hand, the 1S bidder needs to jump, or bid 2H as a stopper ask.